The Federal Communications Commission recognizes the fundamental and essential role that local media play in providing and coordinating communications in emergency situations. The Media Security and Reliability Council ("MSRC") is a Federal Advisory Committee, formed by the FCC, to study, develop and report on communications and coordination designed to assure the optimal reliability, robustness and security of the broadcast and multi-channel video programming distribution industries in emergency situations.

In the course of its work, the MSRC analyzed the current status of media industries and prepared a set of comprehensive best practice recommendations. These recommendations were provided to the FCC and the Media Industry in March 2004 so that, when implemented, will assure optimal reliability, robustness and security of broadcast and MVPD facilities throughout the United States. These comprehensive best practice recommendations can be found at http://www.mediasecurity.org.

On May 26, 2004 the FCC announced that it would officially re-charter the MSRC to create a local implementation plan designed to promote voluntary implementation of the MSRC I Best Practices by the broadcast and MVPD industries; develop "model" documents and other resources for local entities' use; and formulate any additional best practices that may be needed. The comprehensive best practices from MSRC I recommended, among other things, that each national media facility (television network facilities, radio network facilities and cable facilities) should have a disaster recovery plan that is periodically reviewed, updated and practiced.

Disaster recovery planning is a practical approach to contingency and risk management designed to reduce the consequence of an extended disruption of essential services. The scope of this document is to provide guidelines to develop a short term Disaster Recovery Plan and Incident Response Manual for use as a tool by your organization for the timely resumption of essential services in emergency situations. This document is generic in nature, and is designed to serve as a template. Your organization is encouraged to adapt its use to accommodate any unique requirements which may exist.